United Nations A/RES/59/237

General Assembly

Distr.: General
24 February 2005

Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 85 (g)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/59/483/Add.7)*]

59/237. United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling chapter 36 of Agenda 21, on promoting education, public awareness and training, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 3 to 14 June 1992,[1]

Recalling also the work programme on education, public awareness and training initiated by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fourth session in 1996[2] and elaborated upon at its sixth session in 1998,[3]

Recalling further the relevant provisions of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation")[4] on education to promote sustainable development, in particular its provision 124,

Recalling its resolutions 57/254 of 20 December 2002 and 58/219 of 23 December 2003,

Underlining in this regard the fact that the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development shall begin on 1 January 2005,

Welcoming the fact that the Commission on Sustainable Development, at its eleventh session, identified education as one of the cross-cutting issues of its multi-year programme of work,[5]

Reaffirming the internationally agreed development goal of achieving universal primary education, in particular that by 2015 children everywhere, boys

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[1] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I, *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 8* (E/1996/28), chap. I, sect. C, decision 4/11, para. 2.

[3] Ibid., *1998, Supplement No. 9* (E/1998/29), chap. I, sect. B, decision 6/3, sect. C.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[5] See Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/61 of 25 July 2003.

and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that boys and girls will have equal access to all levels of education,

Taking note of the oral report presented on 18 October 2004 at the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly by the Assistant Director-General for Education of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization regarding its preparations for the Decade,[6]

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction,[7] in particular the reference to the issue "Learning to live with risk", as regards the need to focus on education and awareness, linked with the Decade, to be considered at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, to be held in Kobe, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005,[8]

Emphasizing that education is an indispensable element for achieving sustainable development,

1. *Reaffirms* that education for sustainable development is critical for promoting sustainable development;

2. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as the designated lead agency, to promote the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, in coordination with other relevant United Nations organizations and programmes, while taking into account the special needs of developing countries;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to call upon the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to finalize the draft international implementation scheme for the Decade as soon as possible, preferably by the beginning of the Decade, in consultation with Governments, the United Nations and relevant international organizations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, while clarifying its relationship with the existing educational processes, in particular the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum[9] and the United Nations Literacy Decade;[10]

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to call upon the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to submit the draft international implementation scheme to the governing bodies of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for their final consideration and adoption;

5. *Encourages* Governments to consider the inclusion, especially upon completion and adoption of the international implementation scheme, of measures to implement the Decade in their respective educational systems and strategies and, where appropriate, national development plans;

6. *Invites* Governments to promote public awareness of and wider participation in the Decade, inter alia, through cooperation with and initiatives

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[6] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Second Committee*, 14th meeting (A/C.2/59/SR.14), and corrigendum.

[7] A/59/228.

[8] Ibid., para. 8.

[9] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26–28 April 2000* (Paris, 2000).

[10] See resolution 56/116.

engaging civil society and other relevant stakeholders, especially at the beginning of the Decade;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to prepare a mid-term review of the implementation of the Decade, for submission to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session under the sub-item entitled "United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development".

75th plenary meeting
22 December 2004